

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-10, and 12-19 remain in the application. Claims 1, 3, 5-6, 9, and 18 have been amended. Claims 2, 11, and 20 have been canceled.

In the Office Action mailed November 19, 2004, the Examiner allowed claims 12-17 and found claims 2, 3, 5-8, 11, and 20 to be allowable. Claims 1, 4, 9, 10, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by one of either U.S. Patent No. 6,479,954 or U.S. Patent No. 6,791,306.

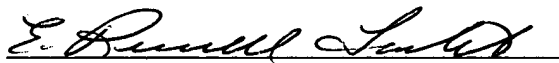
Applicants respectfully disagree. However, to obtain issuance of the alloabel claims, applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of allowable claim 2. Hence, claim 1 is now allowable claim 2 rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 and dependent claims 3-10 are now in condition for allowance.

Claims 12-17 have been allowed.

Claim 18 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 20. Hence, claim 18 is now allowable claim 20 rewritten into independent form to include all of the limitations of the independent claim. Hence, applicants respectfully submit that claims 18 and 19 are now in condition for allowance.

In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application. Consequently, early and favorable action allowing these claims and passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,  
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